

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT ROBIN WRIGHT FRONT PAGE BY-LINER
WASHINGTON POST, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, HEADED
"WHITES DOUBT RHODESIA TO "GIVE IN" NOW."

2. SALISBURY, RHODESIA, SEPTEMBER 22--FEW WHITE RHODE-
SIANS APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT THE END OF WHITE
DOMINATION--THE ESSENTIAL CONDITION TO RACIAL PEACE
HERE--IS NEAR, DESPITE THE WAVE OF OPTIMISTIC OFFICIAL
ASSESSMENTS THIS WEEK.

3. THE OFFICIAL OPTIMISTIC ATMOSPHERE CONTINUED TODAY,
WITH PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH ANNOUNCING AFTER TWO
DAYS OF CABINET MEETINGS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS TAKING
RAPID ACTION TO RESPOND TO THE U.S.-SPONSORED PROPOSALS
IN A "POSITIVE WAY."

4. "I HOPE DR. KISSINGER WILL BE PLEASED WITH WHAT
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WE HAVE DECIDED," SMITH TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE

CABINET MEETING ENDED.

5. LAST NIGHT, TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERERE DISCLOSED THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER LED HIM TO BELIEVE THE SMITH GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN 18 TO 24 MONTHS, AND THAT THE KISSINGER EFFORT COULD BE A SUCCESS.

6. YET THE MOOD HERE REMAINS ONE OF CONFIRMED DISBELIEF THAT THE GOVERNMENT--INCREASINGLY DEFIANT AGAINST RAPID TRANSITION TO BLACK RULE SINCE SMITH DECLARED UNILATERAL INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITAIN IN 1965--WILL "GIVE IN."

7. "NO,NO, NO, THIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT SELL US OUT. THEY WILL NOT ALLOW MAJORITY RULE IN TWO YEARS." A WHITE HOTEL MANAGER SAID ANGRILY.

8. "YOU'VE HEARD WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. OVER AND OVER HE'S REPEATED THAT SUCH A PLAN IS NAIVE AND DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COMPLEXITIES OF OUR PROBLEMS. HOW CAN HE DO AN ABOUT-FACE NOW?"

9. THAT IS THE BIG QUESTION IN RHODESIA AS 270,000 WHITES AND 6.1 MILLION BLACKS WAIT WITH HOPE AND ANTICIPATION--AND AN UNDERCURRENT OF FEAR.

10. THE U.S.-BRITISH "PACKAGE DEAL" THAT COULD END RHODESIA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION--AND A RAPIDLY ESCALATING GUERRILLA WAR--REMAINS A MYSTERY HERE. THE PUBLIC IS NOT EXPECTED TO LEARN SPECIFICS OF THE PLAN NOR THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION UNTIL SMITH ADDRESSES THE NATION FRIDAY.

11. BUT ON THE SURFACE, THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IN HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT CIRCLES HAS NOT LED TO OVERWHELMING GLOOM. IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS IN THIS SLEEPY CAPITAL, WHITE RHODESIANS EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT BLACKS WOULD SOON BE TAKING OVER THE REINS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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POWER.

12. "OF COURSE WE WANT A SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE TO END THIS WAR AND THIS RIDICULOUS POLITICAL STALEMATE THAT CUTS US OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD AS IF WE DON'T EXIST. BUT NO DICE IF IT'S BLACKS IN POWER IN TWO YEARS. WE NEED MORE TIME." A MIDDLE-AGED WHITE DEPARTMENT STORE MANAGER SAID.

13. "WE'VE STUCK IT OUT FOR 11 YEARS WHILE EVERYONE CONDEMNED US. WE CAN'T GIVE UP A PRINCIPLE JUST BECAUSE YOUR DR. KISSINGER TELLS US TO. NO WAY. WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS ANYWAY? HE'LL BE OUT OF POWER LONG BEFORE WE ARE."

14. A WHITE PHYSICIAN, COMMENTING ON FOUR PREVIOUS SETTLEMENT ATTEMPTS, SAID: "WE'VE SEEN ALL THIS HAPPEN BEFORE. WE'RE NOW CONDITIONED TO SAY NO TO MAJORITY RULE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE CAN COMPROMISE NOW WHEN IT'S NEVER BEEN POSSIBLE BEFORE."

15. EVEN THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PAST 24 HOURS HAVE NOT CONVINCED MANY RHODESIANS THAT DRAMATIC CHANGES ARE IN THE MAKING. A RESTAURATEUR SCOFFED: "I DON'T CARE WHAT NYERERE SAID. YOU PRESS PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO MAKE OUT THAT IT'S ALL OVER FOR US. WE'VE GOVE THIS FAR DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES AND WE'RE WILLING TO GO FURTHER TO FIGHT FOR OUR POSITION."

16. A YOUNG WHITE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER TYPIFIED THE VIEW OF THE REBELLIOUS SOUTHERN AFRICAN COLONY'S HARD-CORE CONSERVATIVES.

17. "WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE REST OF AFRICA." SHE SAID, "YOU SHOULD REALIZE WHY WE WANT TO KEEP GOVERNMENT IN RESPONSIBLE HANDS. THERE ISN'T A STABLE GOVERNMENT ANYWHERE ON THIS CONTINENT BUT HERE AND IN SOUTH AFRICA. "WE'RE WILLING TO GIVE BLACKS POWER, BUT NOT UNTIL THEY REACH A POINT WHERE THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT. MAJORITY RULE NOW WOULD LEAD TO TOTAL CHAOS. UNCLASSIFIED

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JUST LOOK AT MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA," THE TWO FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES THAT GAINED INDEPENDENCE LAST YEAR.

18. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THERE IS A RELUCTANT BUT GROWING RECOGNITION THAT THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS PROBABLY PROVIDE THE LAST CHANCE TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

19. IN ADDITION, 11 YEARS OF ISOLATION AND CONDEMNATION HAVE BEEN VISIBLY TIRING.

20. OUTSIDERS HEAR THIS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH RHODESIAN PASSPORT HOLDERS (SOME 80,000 WHITES STILL RETAIN BRITISH PASSPORTS) WHEN THEY LAMENT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BECAUSE FEW COUNTRIES WILL ADMIT THEM.

21. AND IT IS SEEN IN STORES WHERE STOCKS ARE DWINDLING THROUGH A NEW CRACKDOWN ON SANCTIONS AND SHORTAGES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE. ONE OF AFRICA'S STRONGEST AND MOST STABLE ECONOMIES HAS NOW REACHED THE BREAKING POINT: IMPORTS ARE INCREASINGLY HARD TO GET AND EXPORTS HARDER TO SELL.

22. THE TENSION IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE DIVORCE AND SUICIDE RATES, BOTH AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD. ALCOHOLISM IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

23. THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD GUERRILLA WAR HAS RECENTLY ESCALATED FROM BORDER SKIRMISHES TO ATTACKS DEEP INSIDE THE COUNTRY, CREATING ADDITIONAL ANXIETIES.

24. THE IMPACT OF COMPOUNDING PROBLEMS MIXED WITH THE CONDITIONED STAND AGAINST MAJORITY RULE IN THE NEAR FUTURE HAS PUT WHITE RHODESIANS IN A STATE OF TRAUMATIC UNCERTAINTY. IN FACT, THERE IS SUCH CONFUSION THAT MANY RHODESIANS HAVE TURNED TO OUTSIDERS FOR ANSWERS.

25. IN ONE OF MANY REPORTED INCIDENTS, A SALISBURY BARTENDER QUIZZED A GROUP OF JOURNALISTS WHO HAD INITIATED THE CONVERSATION TO FIND OUT HIS OPINION
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ON A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT.

26. "YOU WERE IN PRETORIA. WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT? WHAT DO THEY WANT FROM US?" HE RATTLED ON. BUT HE, IN TURN, COULD PROVIDE NO INSIGHT. "HOW CAN I HAVE AN OPINION? I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. I DON'T HAVE ANY SAY IN IT ANYWAY."

27. THE AVERAGE RHODESIAN MAY INDEED HAVE LITTLE VOICE IN THE FINAL DECISION, SINCE THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT A NATIONAL REFERENDUM WILL BE HELD AND THERE IS NO TIME FOR PUBLIC DEBATE--A POINT THAT HAS IRRITATED MANY WHO FEAR A SELL-OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

28. ALEX GLATZ, AN AMERICAN AND FORMER UN GUARD WHO NOW WORKS AS A PORTER AT SALISBURY'S MEIKLES HOTEL, WAS SO ANGERED BY THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT THAT HE WROTE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE RHODESIA HERALD:

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29. "A FELLOW AMERICAN INVITED ME TO SIGN A PETITION ASKING DR. KISSINGER TO COME TO RHODESIA ON A FACT-

FINDING TOUR. THIS IS STUPID. WE DECLARED INDEPENDENCE
HERE SO WE COULD CONDUCT OUR OWN AFFAIRS."

30. THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY COMMITTED TO
FIND TERMS FOR SETTLEMENT UNDER THE U.S. INITIATIVE.
AS THE GOVERNMENT MAKES WHAT ONE OFFICIAL YESTERDAY
CALLED "MOMENTOUS DECISIONS," HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC IS
LIVING IN LIMBO.

31. MOST DOUBT THAT THEIR "TIME IS UP" AND THAT
RHODESIA WILL SOON BECOME ZIMBABWE. BUT THEY ALSO
WANT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ACCEPTABILITY.

32. RHODESIA'S JOSHUA NKOMO: PROPOSALS CONTAIN "FLAWS"
SUBPARAGRAPH(FROM NEWS DISPATCHES):

33. RHODESIAN BLACK-NATIONALIST LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO
TOLD REPORTERS IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, THAT SECRETARY OF
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STATE HENRY A. KISSINGERS' PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT
IN RHODESIA "HAVE VERY SERIOUS FLAWS# THAT COULD BRING
OUT A LOT OF PROBLEMS," BUT HE DECLINED TO SPECIFY
WHAT FLAWS HE SAW IN THE PLAN UNTIL HE HAS HAD A CHANCE
TO DISCUSS THEM WITH OTHER BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS.

34. KISSINGER'S PLAN GOT A MORE OPTIMISTIC RECEPTION
FROM ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT, MOBUTU SESE SEKO, WHOM HE
CALLED ON YESTERDAY, AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY
ANTHONY CROSLAND. CROSLAND SAID THAT FOR THE FIRST
TIME HE NOW FEELS THAT THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE FOR
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA.

35. KISSINGER SENT HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
TO EXPLAIN HIS POSITIONS ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA TO
BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS.

36. HE ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE
INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY OF KENYA, APPARENTLY IN
RESPONSE TO THE TENSE RELATIONS THAT COUNTRY HAD HAD
WITH NEIGHBORING UGANDA SINCE THE ISRAELI RAID ON
ENTEBBE AIRPORT TO FREE MORE THAN A HUNDRED HIJACK
HOSTAGES. KISSINGER MADE THE STATEMENT ON HIS ARRIVAL
FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT JOMO KENYATTA. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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